

A Historic Look at Studio Ghibli

History & Two Uncommon Directors

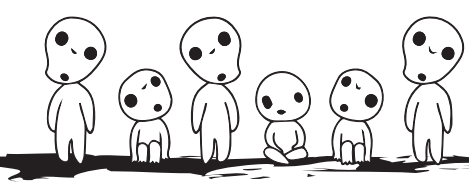
Two uncommon directors, Miyazaki Hayao and Takahata Isao, are at the root of Studio Ghibli. They met in the 1960s at Tōei Dōga, the biggest animation studio in Japan. Takahata Isao began working there in 1961 as an assistant director after having studied French literature at the prestigious University of Tokyo. Miyazaki Hayao, having earned degrees in political science and economics, began working as an illustrator at the studio in 1964. Miyazaki quickly forged friendships with Takahata and Ōtsuka Yasuo, with whom he militated for the Tōei workers union. Together, they made the feature film Horus: Prince of the Sun in 1968, a work that marked a turning point in the world of animation as much for its technical mastery as for its reflection of the social dissent of the time.

The team was possessed of great ambition in their decision to produce a film that would not be designed solely for children. This, though, did not sit well with the management at Tōei, who imposed several cuts and rewrites throughout the film's creation. When the film was released, it was a commercial failure due to its inability to find an audience niche. In 1971, Tōei Animation decided to stop producing feature films in order to concentrate solely on the production of animated series for television. The company forced the production of these series to a frenzied pace, ultimately sparking the largest strike in the company's history and prompting the departure of Takahata and Miyazaki to embark onto Studio Ghibli.

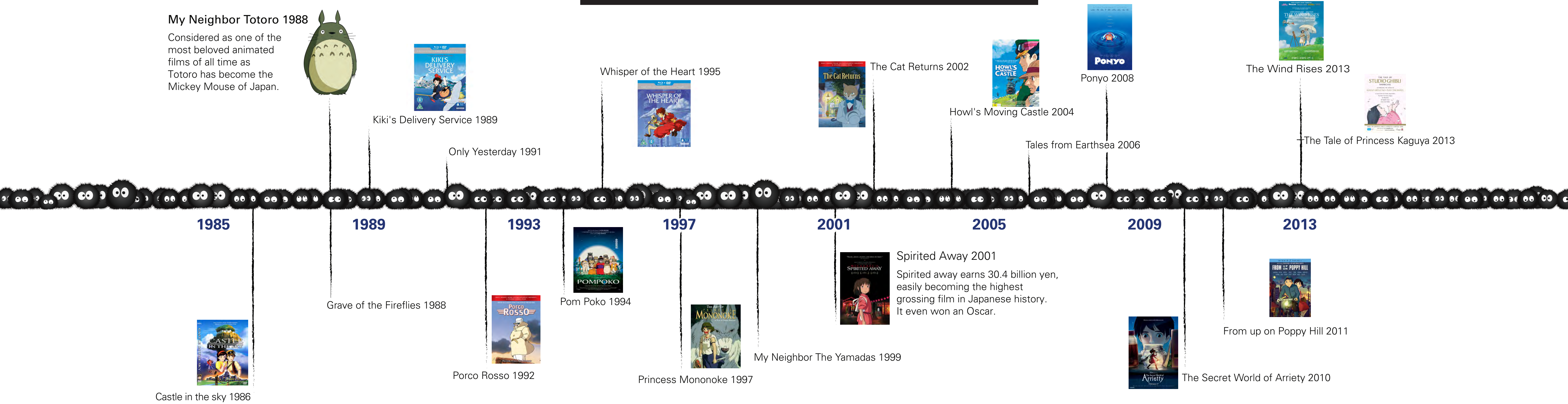
Studio Ghibli, Inc. is a Japanese animation film studio based in Koganei, Tokyo, Japan. The studio is best known for its anime feature films, and has also produced several short films, television commercials, and one television film. It was founded in June 1985 after the success of Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind (1984), with funding by Tokuma Shoten.

Eight of Studio Ghibli's films are among the 15 highest-grossing anime films made in Japan, with Spirited Away (2001) being the highest, grossing over \$274 million worldwide. Many of their works have won the Animage Anime Grand Prix award, and four have won the Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year. In 2002, Spirited Away won a Golden Bear and an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film in 2003. On August 3, 2014, Studio Ghibli announced it was temporarily halting production following the retirement of director Hayao Miyazaki.

The name Ghibli was given by Hayao Miyazaki bearing the Caproni C. 309 Ghibli in mind, an Italian aircraft that was used in World War II. Miyazaki used "ghibli" because it was based on the Arabic name for the sirocco, or better known as the Mediterranean wind. In Italy, people pronounce Ghibli with a harder "G" as opposed to Miyazaki's "Ghibli" at a softer "G" (Jiburi). According to Miyazaki, he chose that name because he wanted to 'blow a new wind through the anime industry.'



A Timeline of the Films Created



Film Facts

Eight of Studio Ghibli's films are among the 15 highest-grossing anime films made in Japan, with Spirited Away being the highest, grossing over \$274 million worldwide. 1992's pig-in-a-fighter-plane saga, Porco Rosso knocked E.T. off the top spot as the highest-grossing film in Japan, while Princess Mononoke from 1997 was tussling at the upper echelons of the box office with James Cameron's Titanic.

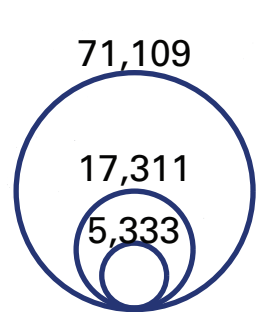
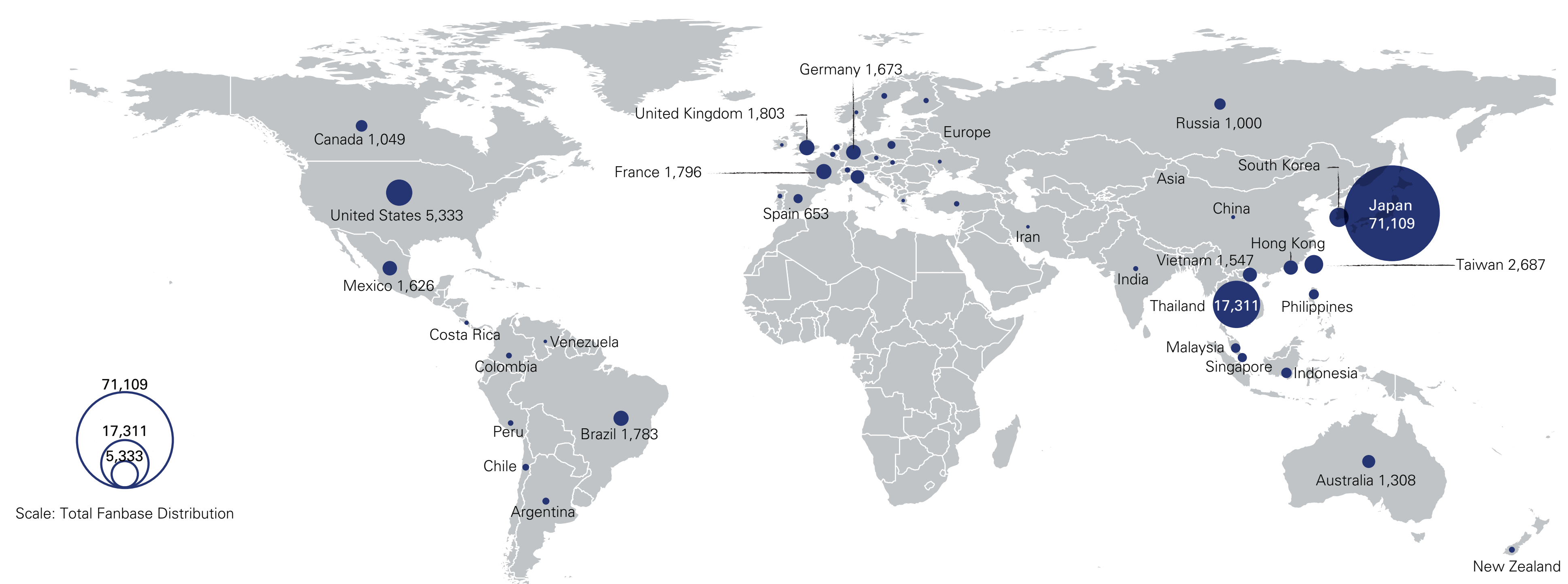
Two actors who have played Batman on screen have lent their voices to the English language adaptations of Miyazaki's films. Michael Keaton, who played Batman in the Tim Burton films, provided the voice of Porco Rosso, while Christian Bale, who played The Caped Crusader in the Christopher Nolan films, provided the voice of Howl in Howl's Moving Castle.

All the films that have ever been produced by Hayao Miyazaki are done so without a script. In an interview he stated it's because he, "usually doesn't have the time." So these intricate animated films we've come to love and cherish are just a spur of the moment thoughts.

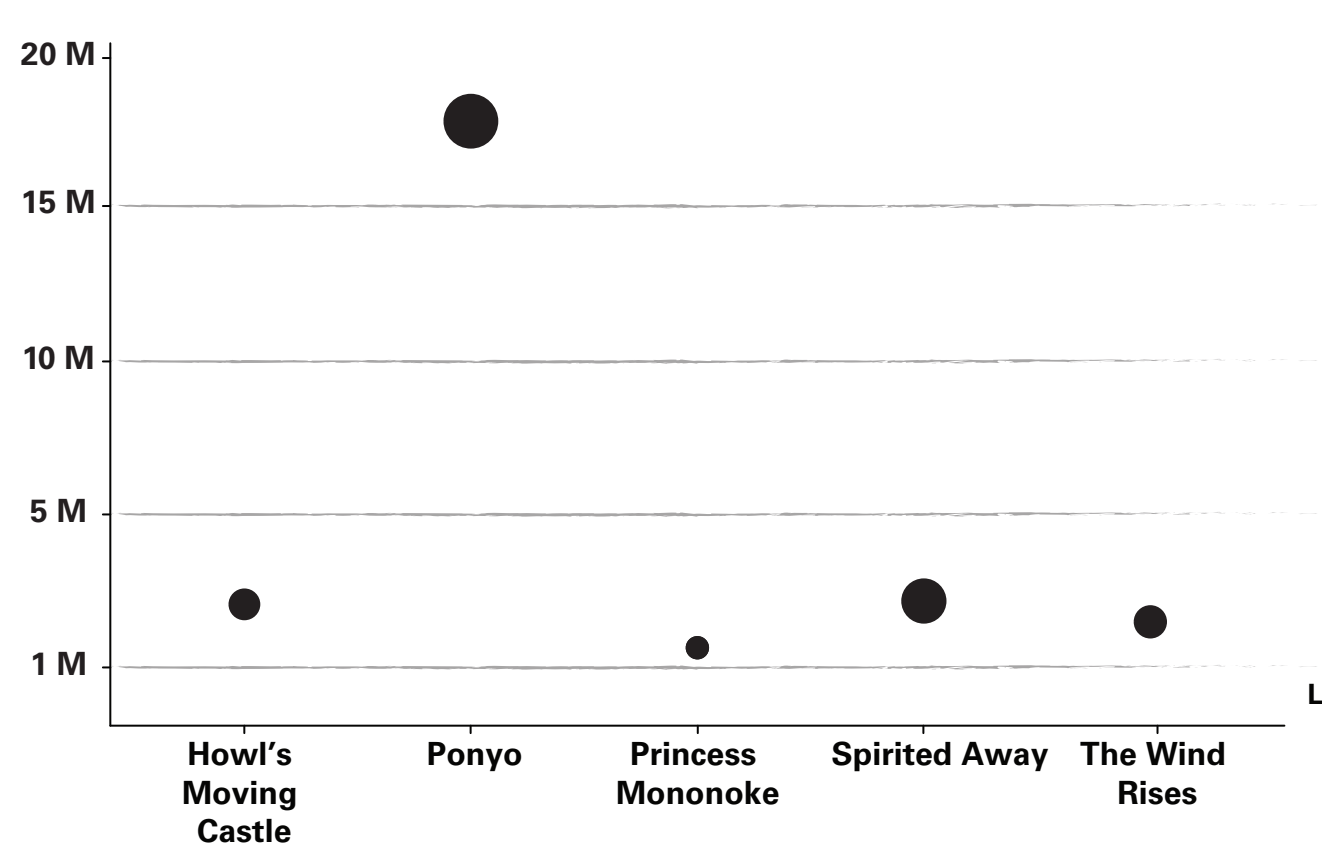


Studio Ghibli in Numbers

Studio Ghibli Fan Base Distribution



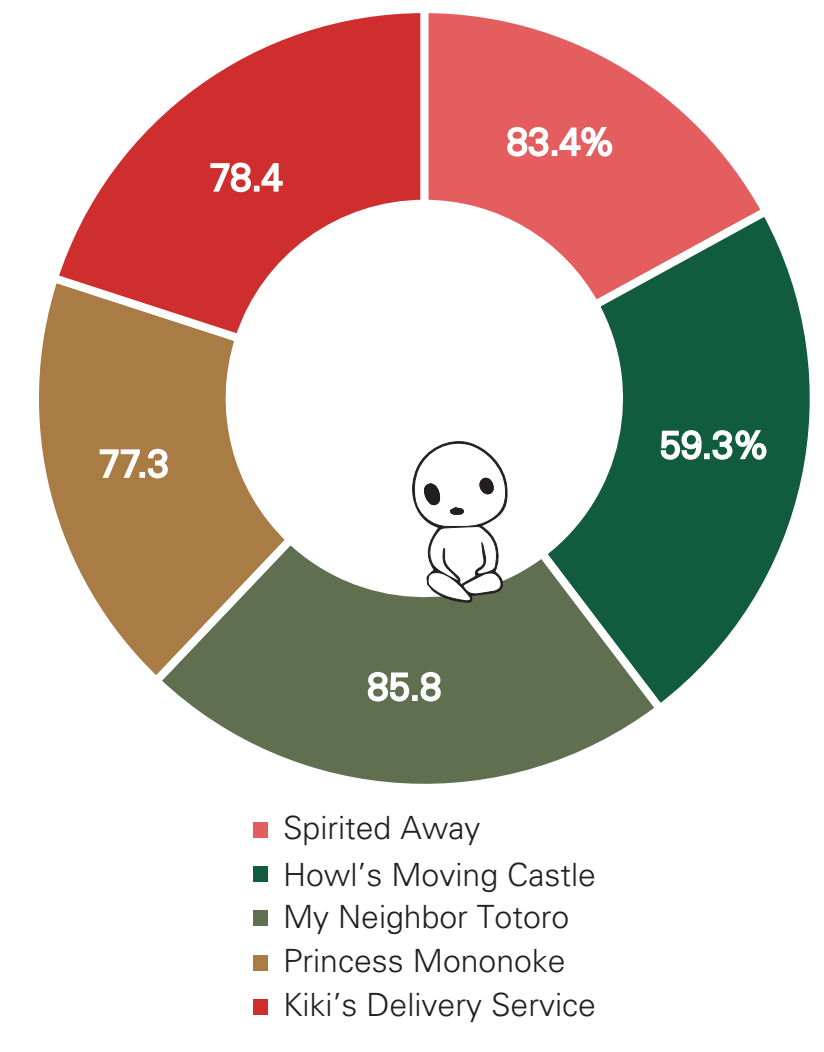
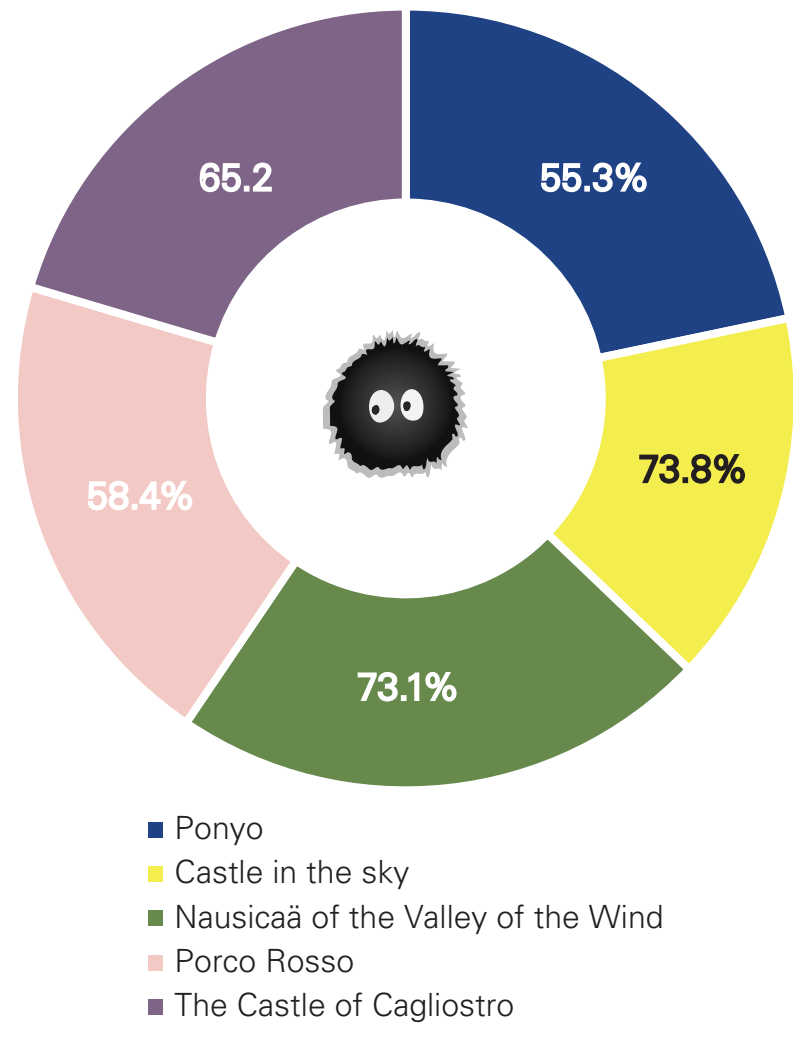
opening gross in movies



This chart shows the top five Studio Ghibli films opening gross in America. The bubbles display their lifetime gross, as well as the film names. Based at Box Office Mojo, the website says that Ponyo is the highest grossing film with a lifetime gross of \$15,090,399.



Who has watched a Ghibli film in Japan?



Culture Convenience Club Co., Ltd., a Japanese company that operates TSUTAYA, a chain of movie rental stores, conducted the survey, which was taken by 1,251 TSUTAYA point card holders between the ages of 16 and 69. The survey's first question asked if members had ever watched a film directed by Hayao Miyazaki to which 95.6 percent of respondents said that they have watched at least one.